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Item 62 (a) of the provisional agenda*
Promotion and protection of the rights of children

Status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The General Assembly, by its resolution 44/25 of 20 November 1989, adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Convention was opened for signature in New York on 26 January 1990 and entered into force on 2 September 1990, the thirtieth day after the deposit with the Secretary-General of the twentieth instrument of ratification or accession. As at 30 June 2005, the Convention had been ratified or acceded to by 192 States.

By its resolution 54/263 of 25 May 2000, the Assembly adopted two Optional Protocols to the Convention. The Optional Protocols entered into force on 12 February and 18 January 2002, respectively. As at 30 June 2006, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the involvement of children in armed conflict had been ratified by 107 States and signed by 122 States and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography had been ratified by 107 States and signed by 115 States.

* A/61/150.

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 60/231 of 23 December 2005, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its sixty-first session a report containing information on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The present report is submitted in accordance with that request.

II. Status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

2. As at 30 June 2006, the Convention on the Rights of the Child had been ratified or acceded to by 192 States. In addition, two States had signed the Convention.[1]

3. As at 30 June 2006, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the involvement of children in armed conflict had been ratified by 107 States and signed by 122 States and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography had been ratified by 107 States and signed by 115 States.

III. Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

4. During the reporting period, the Committee on the Rights of the Child held its fortieth to forty-second sessions at the United Nations Office at Geneva, from 12 to 30 September 2005, 9 to 27 January 2006 and 15 May to 2 June 2006, respectively.[2]

5. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 59/261 of 23 December 2004, the Committee met in two chambers during its forty-first and forty-second sessions. The Committee found this new working method to be a positive experience and conducive to an interactive dialogue with the delegations of the States parties during the consideration of the reports under the Convention and its two Optional Protocols. Most important, this working method has contributed significantly to the reduction in the backlog of reports pending consideration by the Committee. The Chairperson of the Committee will present to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session an assessment of the working method and the progress made, including the experience of the Committee at its forty-third session scheduled to be held in September 2006, and the views of the Committee on ways of further improving its working methods.

6. In conformity with rule 75 of its provisional rules of procedure, the Committee on the Rights of the Child has decided periodically to devote one day of general discussion to a specific article of the Convention or to a theme related to the rights of the child in order to enhance understanding of the contents and implications of the Convention. At its fortieth session, the Committee devoted its day of general discussion to the theme "Children without parental care". Following the general discussion, the Committee adopted a set of recommendations (see CRC/C/153, paras. 639-689).

Notes

[1] For the list of States that have signed, ratified or acceded to the Convention and Optional Protocols, as well as the dates of their signature, ratification or accession, see www.ohchr.org or untreaty.un.org.

[2] For the reports of the Committee on the sessions, see CRC/C/41/3 and CRC/C/42/3 (to be issued).